REMARKS

The present response cancels claim 31 and amends claims 1, 4, 9, 12, 23, 43, 47, 52, 55 and 67. Claims 1-15, 23-30, 32-59, 67 and 68 remain pending in the captioned case. Reconsideration is respectfully requested in light of the following remarks.

Section 103(a) Rejections:

The Office Action rejected claims 1-9, 12, 14, 43-52, 55, 57, 59, 67 and 68 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantz et al. (U.S. Patent 6,584,499) (hereinafter "Jantz"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection in light of the following remarks.

Jantz does not teach or suggest requesting a fabric driver that is part of an operating system for the host system to create an operating system device node in the host system for each of a subset of fabric devices not already online, wherein each operating system device node provides a mechanism for accessing a corresponding one of the subset of fabric devices through the operating system executing on the host system. Instead, Jantz teaches a method for configuring and monitoring network devices. The device configuration and monitoring described in Jantz has nothing to do with how the devices are accessed through a host system's operating system.

The Examiner refers to the description of Jantz's discover-monitor application at col. 14, lines 1-30. However, Jantz's discover-monitor application is not a fabric driver that is part of an operating system for the host system. Nor does Jantz's discover-monitor application receive a list of fabric devices available to a host system from a fabric driver that is part of an operating system for the host system. Instead, Jantz's discover-monitor application and other components are Java applets that all function at an application layer.

The Examiner also refers to the device connection table described at col. 16, lines 13-20 of Jantz. However, Jantz teaches that its connection table is simply a connection map created from information obtained from the device controller 806. Jantz teaches that the connection table is used by the discover-monitor applet 822 to display the device connections, as is shown in Figs. 6 and 7 of Jantz. The connection table in Jantz clearly has nothing to do with operating system device nodes. Jantz's teachings pertain to the monitoring and configuring of devices on a network. Jantz's teachings have nothing to do with creating an operating system device node in the host system for each of a subset of fabric devices not already online, wherein each operating system device node provides a mechanism for accessing a corresponding one of the subset of fabric devices through the operating system executing on the host system.

In regard to independent claims 4, 9, 43, 47, 52 and 67, Applicants again note that Jantz contains no teachings at all in regard to providing operating system device nodes that provide a mechanism for accessing corresponding devices through an operating system executing on the host system, as discussed above.

Claims 10, 11, 53 and 54 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantz in view of Blumenau et al. (U.S. Patent 6,665,714) (hereinafter "Blumenau"). Claims 13 and 56 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantz in view of Carlson et al. (U.S. Patent 5,600,791) (hereinafter "Carlson") and Basham et al. (U.S. Patent 6,182,167) (hereinafter "Basham"). Claims 15 and 58 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantz in view of Wieland (U.S. Patent 6,643,748). Applicants traverse each of the rejections of these claims for at least the reasons given above in regard to their respective independent claims.

Claims 23-25, 28-30 and 40-42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jantz in view of Blumenau. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

The cited art does not teach or suggest a fabric driver that is configured to online a selected subset of fabric devices so that the selected subset of fabric devices are accessible from the host system, wherein the fabric driver is further configured to create operating system device nodes within the host system for each device of the selected subset, wherein each operating system device node provides a mechanism for accessing a corresponding one of the subset of fabric devices through the operating system executing on the host system. Instead, Blumenau teaches a method for configuring storage systems to determine whether devices are authorized to access data according to the identity of the devices (Blumenau -- col. 1, line 42 – col. 2, line 12). Blumenau has nothing to do with creating operating system device nodes for accessing devices through a host system's operating system.

The Examiner refers to Blumenau's description at col. 23, line 60 – col. 24, line 25 of an interface for displaying information about devices. Applicants fail to see how this has any relevance to Applicants' claimed invention. Blumenau's teachings have nothing to do with creating operating system device nodes within a host system for each device of a selected subset. Like Jantz, Blumenau pertains to the configuration of storage systems at the application level. Neither Blumenau nor Jantz is relevant to Applicants' claimed invention.

Claim 26 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Blumenau in view of Nolan et al. (U.S. Patent 6,466,141) (hereinafter "Nolan"), claim 27 over Blumenau in view of Sambamurthy et al. (U.S. Patent 6,393,489) (hereinafter "Sambamurthy"), claim 31 over Blumenau in view of Jantz, claims 32-37 over Blumenau in view of Chow et al. (U.S. Patent 6,594,698) (hereinafter "Chow"), and claims 38 and 39 over Blumenau in view of Chow and further in view of Carlson and Basham. Applicants traverse each of the rejections of these claims for at least the reasons given above in regard to their respective independent claims.

As such, Applicants assert that none of the rejections are supported by the cited art and respectfully request removal of the 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) rejections.

Applicants also assert that numerous ones of the dependent claims recite further distinctions over the cited art. However, since the independent claims have been shown to be patentably distinct, a further discussion of the dependent claims is not necessary at this time.

Information Disclosure Statement:

Applicants note that the Examiner returned the Form PTO-1449 from July 14, 2003, however, it was not signed or dated and references C1-C5 were not initialed. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to carefully consider the listed references and return a copy of the signed and initialed Form PTO-1449 from this statement.
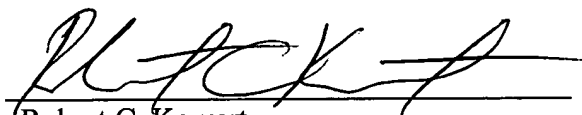
CONCLUSION

Applicants submit the application is in condition for allowance, and notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

If any extension of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) is necessary to prevent the above referenced application from becoming abandoned, Applicants hereby petition for such extension. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C. Deposit Account No. 501505/5181-79200/RCK.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

☒ Return Receipt Postcard

☐ Petition for Extension of Time

☐ Notice of Change of Address

☐ Fee Authorization Form authorizing a deposit account debit in the amount of $ for fees (   ).

☐ Other:

Respectfully submitted,

Robert C. Kowert
Reg. No. 39,255
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert, & Goetzel, P.C.
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8850

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